

Four public affairs reservists selected for colonel

Editor's note: ARPC/PA is looking for more ways to share stories about our PA family. Please submit stories or story ideas to kelly.mazezka@arpc.denver.af.mil.

By Brig. Gen. Fred Roggero
 Director of public affairs



Roggero

We continue to receive more good news early this new year as four reserve Public Affairs officers have been selected for promotion to colonel.

Please join me in congratulating lieutenant colonels Audrey Bahler, AF/RE; Terry Holliday, SAF/PANE; Mona Vollmer, ASC/PA and John Rice, PACOM/J-5.

The four PAs on this year's list equal the number of reserve colonels we have promoted on the past three lists together, so I'm very pleased with the results – it's a great sign for the year ahead.

Unfortunately, we had other excellent candidates who were not selected, and I challenge them to remain focused and keep working hard. Above-the-zone promotions are fairly common in the Reserve, so hang in there and keep up the fires!

Audrey, Terry, John and Mona – I am very happy for you and your families. On your selection – well deserved! Good luck as you begin another chapter in your Air Force careers. We need you ready to take on new responsibilities as senior strategic communications leaders. Thank you for your hard work, and also for what you do every day to defend our nation.

Lt. Col. Audrey Bahler

Home State: Pennsylvania
 Job Title: Chief, Public Affairs Division, Office of the Air Force Reserve.



Bahler

Responsible for the handling of all public affairs issues for Lt. Gen. James Sherrard in his position as Chief of Air Force Reserve to include all media interviews and special events.

Also, serves as the Air Force Reserve Public Affairs liaison with SAF/PA, OASD/PA and OASD/RA

Col. Bahler's hobbies include gardening and landscaping.

Lt. Col. Terry Holliday

Home State: New York City.

Job Title: Director, SAF/PANM- National Media Outreach office in New York.



Holliday

They assist in marketing the Air Force story to national and international media and are force multipliers to the wing base and major commands. Also assist senior leadership with opportunities to interact with media editorial boards.

Col. Holliday loves baseball and has a renewed interest in the Civil War, visiting Gettysburg with his daughter.

Lt. Col. Mona Vollmer

Home State: Ohio

Job Title: Col. Vollmer is activated for the second time to fill in as the director of ASC Public Affairs.

Having approximately 22,000 base employees and they are the largest wing-level PA shop. Responsible for the support of more than 30 general officers, senior executive staff and colonels, as well as the air base wing staff.

Col. Vollmer loves to run, bike, fly her two airplanes, scuba dive and ride horses with her family. She's very involved in her two children's school and at her church.



Vollmer

In addition, the colonel works part time at ABX Air, Inc. (formerly Airborne Express) and is a partner in two businesses: property management and the local county airport FBO.

Lt. Col. John Rice, information and photo were not available at press time.

Again, congratulations to all four individuals on their well deserved promotion.

Reserve Brig. Gen. Qualification Board results announced

Congratulations to colonels Beth Dennard, PACAF/PA; Janice Gunnoe, SAF/PA; Marty Hauser, SAF/PA; and Beverly Lee, SAF/PAN.

The four met a qualification board that recommended their inclusion on a list saying they are eligible to fill a brigadier general billet when one becomes available.

This does not guarantee they will become O-7s, but we wish them well.

Standards change for courtesy titles in AF communications

Public affairs offices will use courtesy titles or conversational ranks, as appropriate, in second and later references to people in all communication products.

For example, Lt. Gen. William J. Johnson on first reference would be referred to as General Johnson throughout the remainder of the product or, in subsequent references, individuals can be referred to by their job title (e.g. the maintainer) or by generic rank alone: the general, the sergeant, the airman, the colonel, etc.

For airmen with specialized titles, the specialized titles will be used in subsequent references. For example, Maj. (Dr.) John Smith will be referred to as Dr. Smith in second and later references, and Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Smith will be referred to as Chaplain Smith in second and later references.

For civilian men, use Mr. with their last name in second and subsequent references. For civilian women, later references are to Ms. Jones, unless the woman asks to be known as Miss or Mrs. — the choice is hers, interviewers should seek her preference.

First names are acceptable on second and subsequent references for children (ages 17 and younger).

Courtesy titles will be omitted in sports articles, unless the individual is acting in an official capacity in the story, and in all headlines.

This policy applies to references to all military and civilian personnel, in all internal information products, including biographies, base newspapers, broadcast products and Web sites. The Associated Press style guides remain our standard

reference for maintaining consistency and quality in Air Force newspaper and print news production and broadcast products.

In addition to using this style in our own writing, ranks/titles will have to be added in the appropriate places in stories used from sources such as the American Forces Information Service. The “search and replace” function in word-processing software will minimize the extra work involved.

We understand that some publications may choose to abbreviate ranks, rather than spelling them out, on second and subsequent references. Local style is permissible as long it meets the intent of using courtesy titles and ranks on second and subsequent references.

(Courtesy AP Stylebook Courtesy Title Supplement)

SAF/PA provides guidance on public support of U.S. troops

By June Forte
SAF/PAN

Public Affairs gets calls from thousands of Americans asking what they can do to show their support for servicemembers, especially those serving overseas in this time of war.

Below are Web sites for several organizations that are sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas. While it would be inappropriate for the Department to endorse any specifically, servicemembers do value and appreciate such expressions of support:

→ The American Red Cross is launching Treasures for Troops, an exciting year round program that offers a way for Americans to brighten the day for deployed men and women in uniform serving overseas.

You can provide troops with a gift from home with a \$20 donation to the American Red Cross Treasures for the Troops program. Details at: <http://www.trianglearc.org/afes/treasuresfortroops.htm>

→ Operation Hero Miles: In September 2003, the Pentagon started giving soldiers stationed in Iraq two-week leave periods in the largest R & R program since the Vietnam War; the soldiers can fly to Germany or Baltimore Washington International Airport for free, but they are responsible for the cost of flights to their final destination.

Returning soldiers often have to purchase high-priced, last-minute airline tickets so they can spend time with their family. You can help American troops travel home to spend quality time with their loved ones. For more information, please see: <http://www.heromiles.org/index.html>

→ Contribute to “Gifts from the Homefront” Certificates from the Army Air Force Exchange System (AAFES). These allow you to send a gift certificate to a loved one, family member or friend associated with the military. These certificates are redeemable by authorized patrons of the PX/BX and are redeemable at all locations around the world including deployed areas.

For more information, please see: <http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm>.

→ Donate to “Operation USO Care Package” at <http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>. The Gift of Groceries program helps meet the family needs of our Guard and Reserve troops fighting the war on terrorism.

→ Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/> or www.OperationDearAbby.net.

→ Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America Web site at The “Stars and Stripes” newspaper. This includes a daily “Messages of Support” section giving family and friends of deployed service members a chance to pass along greetings, announcements, and words of encouragement.

Such messages, limited to 50 words or less, will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. Messages may be sent to: messages@stripes.com.

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AF Reserve Command IMA pegged 'go-to guy'

By Maj. Bob Thompson

Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

I had never heard of an "Individual Mobilization Augmentee" before I became one.

I had been on active duty for seven years and had met only a handful of reservists and didn't really know the difference between the reserve and the Guard. But after a three-year break from military service, I wanted back in the Air Force, and in 1995 the strange letters "IMA" became my new occupation.

I reported in at Langley AFB, Va., for my first two weeks of annual tour. At the time, I didn't have a civilian job. So to make a positive impression on my new boss and co-workers, I decided my motto would be that I'd go anywhere, anytime.

While attending my first staff meeting at Air Combat Command Public Affairs, I surprised everyone – including myself – by raising my hand and volunteering to go to Bosnia for Operation Joint Endeavor. I didn't get to go that time, but my message was heard, "Anytime, anywhere, Thompson is ready to go."

From that moment on, I was offered IMA man-day tours. I tried my best to cover whatever was on the table.

Normally, my only limitation was the 179-day rule that limits IMA duty during peacetime. Each year, I'd work about six months of man-days plus my two weeks of annual tour and two weeks of IDTs.

I backfilled at Cannon, Minot and Mountain Home AFBs. I went to joint and combined exercises, conferences, special events, presidential visits, high-profile court-martials, served as an executive officer, searched for a lost A-10, flew media flights over the winter Olympics at Salt Lake, and deployed.

I went to Bolivia with Civil Engineering's Red Horse team, Bosnia with NATO, and to Turkey for Operation Northern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I became the "go-to-guy." At first it started with duty that nobody else wanted, but later I became the boss' number one choice for the important TDYs and projects. I had earned his respect with my eager, go-anywhere-anytime attitude and my job performance.

During deployments and special event TDYs, the action comes to you. You're plugged into world events and the

world press knocks on your door — ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX networks, CNN, MSNBC, USA Today, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, as well as foreign media from Germany, France, Japan and more. Their stars come out too. In Turkey, it was Geraldo Rivera outside the gate at midnight, Diane Sawyer on the flightline at sunrise.

Last year, my career reached a fork in the road, and I decided I wanted to work full time. I applied for a four-year AGR tour at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB, Ga.

To back my bet, I volunteered for a deployment to Baghdad that Col. Marty Hauser at the Pentagon had advertised. I landed the AGR slot and Col. Hauser dropped me from his list of potential deployees.

Since the beginning of the year, I've been working my new job as the chief of the News Division. I've bought a house and settled in. Sometimes I catch myself wondering who got "my" slot to Baghdad and who'll get the other adventures that would have been mine over the next four years.

Still, my deployment bags sit in the corner of my bedroom. Though well-traveled, they're ready to go at a moments notice. For more than eight years they have carried my gear from hotel to hotel, tent to tent, and country to country. Some with indoor plumbing, some not.

In my new job, one of my reoccurring messages to the press is that the Air Force Reserve Command has about 75,800 reservists on full and part time duty. Of that number, about 12,000 are IMAs. Of that number, I'm sure there are several who have their bags packed as the "Go-to-Guys" – like I used to be. They are the lucky ones who the boss depends upon to go anywhere, anytime.



"Good Morning America" host Diane Sawyer and Maj. Bob Thompson take time out from flightline interviews to say "cheese" for the camera. The ABC host interviewed the commander and troops of Operation Northern Watch at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey during the preparations that led up to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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→ Make a donation to one of the military relief societies:

Army Emergency Relief at <http://www.aerhq.org/>

Navy/Marine Relief Society at <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

Air Force Aid Society at <http://www.afas.org/>

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at <http://www.cgmahq.org/>

Special Operations Warrior Foundation at <http://www.specialops.org/contribute.html>

Support the American Red Cross Armed

Forces Emergency Services at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors at National Military Family Association at <http://www.nmfa.org>

Purchase a Patriot Bond at <http://www.ustreas.gov>

→ Volunteer at a VA Hospital to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts.

→ Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved ones overseas.

Please don't flood the mail system with letters, cards, and gifts. Due to security constraints, the Department cannot accept items to be mailed to "Any Servicemember."

Some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual servicemember's address, which however well intentioned, clogs the mail and causes unnecessary delays.

The support and generosity of the American people has touched the lives of the more than 300,000 service members deployed overseas.